

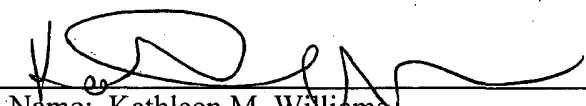
Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 42, from line 1 through line 6, with the following paragraph:

-- Dye according to the invention (1 mg) is dissolved in 200 μ l of DMSO and immediately added to a solution of amino oligonucleotide 5'-X AAA CCC GGG AGC TCG AAT TCC CTA TAG GTA GTC GTA TTA AAT TCG TAG TCA TGT CAT AAC TGT TTC CTG TGT G-3' (1 mg, X = 5' amino C-12) (SEQ ID NO: 1) in 500 μ l of 0.1 M sodium bicarbonate solution (pH 8.5). The solution is vortexed briefly and placed on a turntable for 18 hours at room temperature. Excess free dye is removed using a NAP-10 column and the resulting solution is purified by HPLC. --

Respectfully submitted,

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